

GODFREY HOUSE, KENT.



GODFREY HOUSE, NEAR HOLLINGBOURNE, KENT.

GODFREY HOUSE stands a short distance from the town of Hollingbourne, about five miles from Maidstone. It is a very good specimen of the ancient Kentish wood noggen house. On its first erection it probably formed the residence of some respectable yeoman of the county; a tablet over the doorway states it to have been built in the year 1587. The building is not noticed in any topographical history, nor can any information be obtained respecting it. The owner, a gentleman, resides in an exceedingly ugly building in the neighbourhood; he permits Godfrey House to be occupied by several families of his labourers. The whole of its interior has been stripped of whatever works, ancient or interesting, it might formerly have possessed. The sound condition of the building at present proves it to have been originally carefully constructed, and some extremely good metal work remaining in the windows, shows that equal attention was paid to the decoration and finishing.

C. J. R.

•• We have in preparation a number of other views, illustrative of the progress of domestic architecture from an early period, both in England and abroad, which will be laid before our readers from time to time, and be connected by a general review of the subject when all are issued.

WORKS AT BIRMINGHAM.

THE interior of the town-hall has been decorated in the polychromatic style for the approaching musical festival. The general tone of the ceiling and cove is a subdued buff, and in the grounds of the sunk panels blue and red, mingled with grey, are introduced. The main cornice has its parts brought out by contrast of colour, and in the frieze is an appropriate ornament. On the walls a deep brownish red, relieved with coloured frets, &c., serves to throw in high relief the pilasters, which are of a light tone of colour. The galleries are painted oak, the ornamental balustrade being in imitation of bronze partly gilt. The orchestra has been brought forward and coloured. The grand organ, it is thought, now assumes an appearance that accords with the vastness of its proportions and the power of its tones. The whole range of pipes is illuminated in vellum colour and gold, the framework being oak, of which the mouldings and ornaments are gilt.—It has been resolved to complete the town-hall forthwith, and to form two spacious streets around the northern and western sides of the building.—The Corporate Buildings Committee have been directed to complete the purchase of 4,000 square yards of ground near the town-hall, offered by the commissioners at cost price, and to advertise for plans for the

contemplated erections.—The Lunatic Asylum Committee, anticipating a considerable saving by carrying on the building of the asylum in conjunction with the works of the borough gaol, have directed Mr. D. R. Hill to prepare the necessary plans.—The Gaol Committee have caused their works to be proceeded with under the direction of the architect. The whole of the brickwork of the prison is now up to the level of the ground, and ready for re-letting. The Inspector of Prisons has approved of the works. The liabilities of the sureties of the late Mr. Walthew, the contractor, amount to 3,250*l.*, or 10 per cent. on the whole amount of the contract; and the council have decided to hold them fully liable, although the burden on the ratepayers, it is said, would be very trifling.—The Poor Law Guardians were to determine on Friday as to the site of the new work-house.

FREE EXHIBITION.—The exhibition of works of art purchased by the Art-Union of London, will open on Monday next, at the Suffolk-street gallery. The collection is a good one; we shall notice it next week.

BLACKBURN AND PRESTON RAILWAY COMPETITION.—A correspondent informs us that the directors have awarded the first premium, for a design for the Blackburn station, to Mr. Sancton Wood, of London.